



*Anubis - the Egyptian god who oversaw embalming and mummification, as well as escorting the deceased through the procedures for entering the underworld.*

# ICF NEWSLETTER

**January 2007**

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## ***Institute for Canine Forensics***

ICF is a non-profit organization in Northern California for the advancement of research and education of Forensic Evidence and Human Remains Detection Dog teams.

**ICF has a new associate - Welcome!**

**Kris Black**

e-mail: [kris\\_black40@yahoo.com](mailto:kris_black40@yahoo.com)

**Canine Search Specialist**

Kris is very active between being the SAR Academy instructor for Santa Clara Sheriff's Search and Rescue and working with her two German Shepherds, Osara and Klaus. Klaus is certified in area and cadaver, and Osara is her specialized working dog certified in both human remains detection and historical HRD.

**Member of:**

- ✓ Institute for Canine Forensics
- ✓ Canine Specialized Search Team (CSST) - resource of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's / Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office
- ✓ California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA)
- ✓ Santa Clara County Sheriff's Search and Rescue



### **Advisory Board**

**LORNA C. PIERCE, Ph.D.**  
Anthropology  
San Jose State University

**RUSS SKOWRONEK, Ph.D.**  
Archaeology  
University of Santa Clara

**PAT GRANT, DVM**  
Veterinary Consultant

### **Mission Statement**

To promote and elevate professionalism in the use of specially trained canines for forensic evidence and human remains detection.

Additionally, our ongoing research and educational programs are designed to develop advanced techniques regarding the use of canines as a forensic tool, and to better assist investigative and cultural resource management agencies.

We promote the teamwork approach and emphasize cooperation between other experts and agencies in the field. We maintain a Web site and Email list for networking internationally and for the exchange of new ideas and discoveries.

Our intention is the continuance of research projects providing needed information on the canine olfactory capabilities in relation to forensic evidence investigations.

*Quote of the ICF HRD Seminar, NASA, January 2007*

*Those fortunate enough to be able to include their dog in their work know the impact this has on the relationship. Subtly, without even noticing, a familiarity and ease develops, making it difficult to imagine one's life without the presence of the other - not so much a shadow as a harmonious part of the landscape.*

*Monks of New Skete*

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## From the Editor:

Year 2006 is behind us and what a year it was! ICF teams responded to many fascinating searches and with each search we learned something new. One property owner unexpectedly "ground- truth" our dogs' find when he ignored the dog alerts and decided to dig anyway. On another search we stood face to face in front of a posse of folks who were not thrilled to have dogs on their grounds. In November we helped one terrific group of young men do the right thing by erecting a small monument to honor their forgotten folks whose markers were long gone.

A heartfelt welcome to our new member - **Kris Black and Osara**, a 1 ½ year old GSD female. This young dog is an historical HRD specialist. She has a sunny personality and shows a great potential. We also welcomed new and promising puppies into our training circle; they are a handful right now but will be dynamite when fully trained. Oh, BTW, their handlers show lots of promise as well (:>)

## In 2006, ICF handlers wrote and presented their papers at two archaeological conferences

### Sacramento, CA, January 11 - 15, 2006

Society for Historical Archaeology, ICF presented the following papers:

- ◆ Evolution: A New Breed of Remote Sensing by Adela Morris and Donna Randolph
- ◆ Canine training: Historical versus Cadaver by Bev Peabody
- ◆ Search for Lolo: A Non-Invasive Method of Searching for Buried Human Remains by Eva Cecil
- ◆ Bayley Project: Canine Remote Sensing Detection by Shirley Hammond
- ◆ Human signature: Is There a Human Signature in Ancient Bones That a Trained Canine Can Recognize by Eva Cecil and Heidi Hill
- ◆ Evaluating the Accuracy of Human Detection Dogs by Drs. Russell K.Skowronek and Lorna Pierce

### Ventura, CA, March 29 - 31, 2006

Adela with Rhea and Eva with Nessie manned a poster exhibit at the **Society for California Archaeology** conference. Over the two days we talked to many archaeologists and anthropologists..... and our dogs were at their best behavior as always.

Nessie and Rhea were the stars of the opening night. The presentation and the demo went without a hitch. Although we had a competition as two great BBQ grills just outside the door were luring hungry people to dinner. We packed the room full anyway!!

Kudos to Nessie and Rhea for staying cool under pressure!!

## Workshops

**On September 15 - 17, 2006 and January 12 - 14, 2007** ICF held Human **Remains Detection Workshops** at NASA Ames, Moffett Field, California. We met many wonderful dogs and their handlers. The prize for "Absolute Bundle of Love" goes to Jack, a black lab puppy. Beside the usual staff of lecturers and trainers at these workshops, we introduced two new folks to you: a long time friend and a fellow dog handler, a brilliant **lawyer Cherie D'Arcy** and our own **Dog Whisperer Jack Fields** with his beau **Amy Uecker**. Jack's 20 years of training dogs and people makes him a pro - through and through.

The next seminar is planned for spring 2007. We will tailor this seminar for a "**First Responder to a Disaster**" folks. **Tentative date is set for April 13 - 15, 2007** at NASA Ames, Moffett Field, Mountain View, California.

We are only a few weeks into 2007 and ICF has already worked on VERY interesting searches. More on these searches will be in our next newsletter.

Happy training in 2007 to all bipeds owned by their quadrupeds!

Keep up the good work and if you want to share an interesting story or a photo, drop me an e-mail.



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## CLARKSVILLE CEMETERY - EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

**Requestor:** Jeff Carlson, Life Scout

ICF Historical HRD dogs were requested to work an open field area for unmarked graves and boundaries. At a future date, Jeff Carlson will make cement tablets for the unmarked graves that are located and markers for graves that have been located by ICF teams but have no markers. This is for Jeff's Eagle Scout project and a benefit for the community.



18 December, 2006

To: Institute for Canine Forensics

Dear ICF teams,

Thank you just doesn't seem enough for the tremendous amount of work that you and your dogs did for my Eagle Scout Project at the Clarksville Pioneer Cemetery in El Dorado Hills, California. I can't tell you enough how much I really appreciate it. Also, many thanks for your time, expertise, knowledge and service of your dogs on behalf of this project. I strongly believe in this project as it preserves history for future generations. The type of work you do is amazing! I was impressed to watch all handlers work with their dogs in finding the graves.



When this project began, I didn't realize that the ICF teams were so famous. I was interested to learn about the other projects that you have done all over the world. It was very interesting how the dogs could smell the bodies and how there were so many different

kinds of breed of dogs. Again, I am speechless with your generosity. I realize that it was a great sacrifice for you and dogs to come out and help. Nessie was a lead in finding the first of the graves. She found many of the 32 graves. I'm indebted to all of you.

I am very glad that some of the people buried at the Clarksville Pioneer Cemetery will now, at least, have a marker.

Sincerely,

Jeff Carlson,  
Life Scout  
Troop 396,  
Pony Express District  
Golden Empire  
Council  
Boy Scouts of America



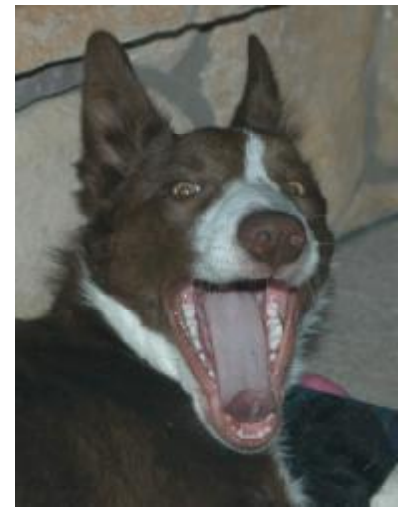
## Latest Developments

### A Teaching Seminar for Canine Handlers held in January 2007 was a success!

Instructors at ICF teach the newest techniques and advances for Human Remains Detection throughout the US and internationally; beginning / intermediate Human Remains Detection Workshops and Advanced Workshops may also be scheduled by special request. Our next Seminar is tentatively scheduled for April 13, 14 and 15, 2007 – see details on page 4 .

### Picture of the Month ...

“Ha, Ha, Ha, You want me to do what ??!!!!!??”



Zuma at 10 months

### Thank You

The Institute for Canine Forensics would like to send a word of appreciation to all friends who believe in our mission and us. We thank you for caring.

**Our mission** is to provide the finest specialized search dog teams and to develop state-of-the-art-training techniques. Your donation will help us to continue to provide highly trained forensic evidence and human remains detection dog teams to serve well.

### The ICF Board of Directors:

Adela Morris  
Shirley Hammond  
Eva Cecil  
Bev Peabody  
Warren Kirsch

## Workers Discover Prehistoric Native American Remains At NASA Ames Moffett Field in Mountain View, California

(Published in the NASA Ames "ASTROGRAM")

A construction crew working on an Army project on Berry Court, just inside the Ames main gate, has unearthed the skeletal remains of a prehistoric Native American.



The crew discovered the remains while excavating a site in an area of military housing. They were buried

approximately 43 inches deep. The construction crew immediately stopped digging and notified Ames Dispatch, which contacted the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. Officers from Ames' Protective Services and from the Sheriff's Office responded.



Human remains detection dog teams were brought in to verify that the bones are human. All three dogs,

which have been trained to detect human remains even thousands of years old, positively identified the bones as human. The dogs and their handlers are part of Ames' Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART). After examining the remains, a forensic anthropologist concluded that the remains are most likely those of prehistoric Native American. The remains were respectfully returned to their burial site, which was secured until a Native American representative could be notified.

A few days after the initial discovery, two archaeologists, one of who works for the Army and the other a Native American representative, finished excavating the remains and removed them from the site. They estimated the remains to be between 4,000 and 5,000 years old. The Army has submitted a proposal for continuing the construction. A decision is pending.

"NASA is committed to cooperating fully with the Native American leaders and treating these remains with the utmost respect," said Bob Dolci, director of Protective Services at Ames.

## Next Teaching Seminar 2007 - Tentative date is April 13, 14 and 15 at NASA

Instructors at ICF teach the newest techniques and advances for Human Remains Detection throughout the US and internationally; beginning / intermediate Human Remains Detection Workshops and Advanced Workshops are scheduled during the year and also by special request.

### Location:

NASA Ames Moffett field in Mountain View CA,  
**Housing** available at NASA for \$45.00 a night single or double.  
For housing reservations call 650 603-7100

### Beginning to Advanced Levels of HRD

Below are some of the topics we cover in our beginning / intermediate classes. Human Remains Detection Workshop consists of three days of lectures, fieldwork, and scenario based problems.

**Instructors:** Shirley Hammond, Adela Morris, Eva Cecil, Bev Peabody, Dr. Lorna Pierce, Cherie D'Arcy, Lynne Engelbert, Kris Black, Joseph Kral, Pat Lamson, Jack Fields & Amy Uecker

**Topic:** "First Responder to a Disaster"

**Objective:** To develop canine detection resources to assist law enforcement agencies in search operations and other legal investigations.

### The teams should be able:

**Search Dog** - to recognize, preserve, commit and perform the trained alert behavior upon detecting human remains

**Handler** - to read the fine nuances of the search dog behavior

**Handler** - to understand some of the theories and practical knowledge, and recognize the capabilities and limitations of the team

### Lectures Include:

Important legal issues for canine handlers

Drive and the working dog

Steps and procedures for Canine Decontamination

Alert & Reward Systems - Choosing an Alert

Rates of Human Decomposition

Developing Training Plan

Record Keeping, Court, Resume and Logbooks

Handler Technique - Problem Solving

Clarification of Terminology

Hazards/Dangers in handling Material Bio Hazards

Preservation of the Scent Item and Scene

Environmental Conditions Affecting Decomposition

Specialty Dogs vs. Multi Tasked Dogs

Proofing off Distractions and Animal Remains

### Papers Include:

Instructors Bio

Objective

Steps for Training a Human Remains Detection Dog

Record Keeping

Deployment Equipment Check List

List of Resource Web pages

### Field Exercises Include:

Collapsed building searching

Imprinting / Scent Recognition

Scent Pools

Overlapping Scents of Equal Strength

Overlapping Scents of Unequal Strength

Disarticulated Skeletal Remains & Teeth

Building Searching vs. Outside Searching

Preservation of Evidence

Buried Problems, Vehicle Search, Trace Evidence

**Materials:** Training Aids and Papers

## El Dorado House Cemetery

By Adela Morris

### El Dorado Hills, CA

A common request for the Institute for Canine Forensics (ICF) teams is to help locate historical cemetery boundaries or lost graves.

### Historical Background

The El Dorado House and Ranch was established in June of 1850. Documents show that the following December one of the owners of the roadhouse, George Richardson died. It is believed that the cemetery established at that time was used from 1850 until 1905.

In 1975 the El Dorado County Pioneer Cemeteries Commission was notified of the existence of a cemetery that was identified from documentary evidence. A search for the cemetery was unsuccessful at that time. In 1998 two local residents (brothers) who grew up in Shingle Springs identified the cemetery. They knew about the family plot of Ellen Bentley - Joel Parmeter because their mother had visited the plot with them when they were young.



California Saving Graves Group has documented this cemetery as well as many other historical cemeteries in California.

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ca/state/index.htm>

### The Search

In May 2006, the owner of a one-acre parcel being developed for an industrial park requested our services. The property owner was selling the property and the sale was pending a permit to build. The county would not give the buyer a building permit because historical records showed the possible location of a pioneer cemetery on the property. It was the property owner's responsibility to prove that the cemetery was not located on his property. ICF was contacted and asked to search this property.



Three ICF teams (James Davidson & Maya, Adela Morris & Rhea and Bev Peabody & Legend) responded on May 13 to search this small area. We were asked to search a small 15ft by 20ft area that was enclosed by a rock wall. Each of the dogs alerted on several graves located inside this rock wall.



### Validation

Research done after the search revealed information on the property and cemetery. Sue Silver's web page, California Saving Graves, had documented information about this cemetery. We also searched the web and found a history of the property, and pictures from 2000 when longtime residents did a clean up of the Bentley - Parmeter plot marking the graves as they remembered them.

This validated the dogs' work. Our work is not usually ground-truthed, as there normally is no intention of removing burials. The involved parties only want to know the location. The absolute confirmation came few months later when the property owner, along with an archaeologist, used a backhoe to dig in the area and confirmed that there were graves inside the rock wall.

The following September the owner again contacted ICF and invited us back to search the entire area for graves. He was developing a plan to utilize the property and preserve the pioneer cemetery but needed to make sure there were no other unmarked graves. ICF teams searched the property on October 29. Search conditions were far from optimal. This area in the foothills of the Sierras is very hot during the summer with little-to-no rainfall. Even with air temperature in the low 80's, it was difficult for the dogs to work. The dogs alerted in an area down slope from the now established cemetery. On November 25, 2006 we returned to the property to work with local archaeologists who would test for graves. The archaeologists had two areas that were of concern; one location was the same one where dogs had alerted on the September search. The archaeologist, with the aid of a backhoe, dug for evidence of disturbed soil or a grave in both locations. Using this method, both locations appeared to be negative for graves.



Even though this area of the Sierra foothills is rapidly being developed, this small piece of history will be preserved through the work of dogs specifically trained to find historical human remains.

## ICF Workshops

By Adela Morris

Long before we started working with historical graves we have been presenting workshops to help train other canine handlers. Our workshops have expanded and become more diverse. We have added new topics and new instructors.



On September 15, 16 & 17, 2006 ICF put on one of the many human remains detection (HRD) workshops we do every year. This workshop focused on human remains detection as a first responder to a disaster. As usual Dr. Lorna Pierce, our very own anthropologist, lectured on preservation of evidence as well as human bone identification.



### New Lectures Included:

- ◆ Important Legal Issues for HRD Handlers: Cherie D'Arcy, Attorney at Law, canine handler
- ◆ Drive and the Working Dog: Jack Fields of K9 Development
- ◆ First Responder to a Disaster: Lynne Engelbert, FEMA, DART, CSST, CA TF3, Canine Search Specialist



### Our Staff Instructors:

Kris Black, Eva Cecil, Cherie D'Arcy, Lynne Engelbert, Jack Fields, Shirley Hammond, Joseph Kral, Pat Lamson, Adela Morris, Bev Peabody, Dr. Lorna Pierce, Amy Uecker

### Fieldwork:

- ◆ Imprinting / Scent Recognition (for beginning dogs)
- ◆ Developing a Training Plan (for beginning teams)
- ◆ Large scent source problems
- ◆ Crime Scene
- ◆ Building searching
- ◆ Scent Theory - A New Perspective
- ◆ Training for the Real World Disaster, realistic training for first Responders in the unique NASA collapsed training structure
- ◆ Overlapping Scents of Equal Strength & Unequal Strength
- ◆ How to build drive
- ◆ Hazards and Dangers

### January 12, 13 & 14, 2007

Two search teams, High Country K-9 Montana and Wyoming K9 requested a HRD workshop. We asked if we could fill the remaining spaces with local handlers and they were happy to have other teams included.

Both workshops offered an opportunity for teams to work a large variety of scent sources from large fresh sources to many stages of decomposition in a variety of scenarios. Our most popular exercises were our collapsed structure building searches and our cold case crime scene.



**This spring we plan on presenting another workshop** the theme will be "First Responder to a Disaster"

### Lectures and fieldwork will include:

- Important legal issues for canine handlers
- Collapsed building searching
- Drive and the working dog
- Hazards and dangers of building searches
- Steps and procedures for Canine Decontamination
- Preservation of evidence
- Rates of human decomposition

We are also developing a new workshop that focuses on building drive, puppy socialization, learning about stress and canine body language, methods for teaching dogs and clicker training.

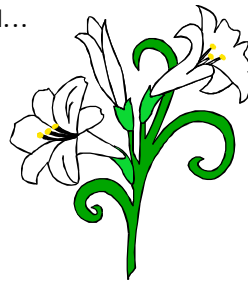
If you are interested in having a custom workshop or joining one of the scheduled workshops please contact us.

## Our "Pawlitzer Prize" for Poetry goes to ... Pat Lamson

### POOR SAM I AM

Should not have eaten Green Eggs and Ham  
Got sick and died, poor Sam I Am  
So now as Sam begins to rot  
Settlement is what you've got  
But if you take and liquefy,  
you'll get diffusion ... to the sky.

Diffusion here, diffusion there  
Diffusing Sam just everywhere.  
But then add in some bacteria  
and that changes your criteria  
Now a thicker, heavier scent disperses  
Oh, it's much too late for doctors or nurses  
So now as Sam spreads all around,  
Go fetch the dogs, let's get him found...



## ICF Video Production

Institute for Canine Forensics creates and produces documentaries in close cooperation with [www.LFCStudio.com](http://www.LFCStudio.com)

Historical Human Remains Detection dogs are taught to discriminate between human and non-human items, alerting on the faint residual scent of human bones.

HRD dogs do not disturb the scene by digging or retrieving.

The dogs are trained to work slowly and methodically. Their most common alerts are passive - sitting or lying down where human remains scent is detected.

Some of our multimedia compilations were used as a resource for programs on the educational TV channel Animal Planet.



The ICF DVD documents HRD dogs' activities. We offer this DVD as a token of appreciation for your tax-deductible donation to ICF - a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Institute for Canine Forensics, P.O. Box 81, Los Altos, CA 94022-0081



## Notable Investigations

Our team members participated in hundreds of investigations including:

- Amber Schwartz Garcia
- Bayley House Family Plot, 1896, Pilot Hill, California
- Boca Cemetery 1866, Truckee, California
- Clarksville Tong Cemetery
- Donner Camp at Alder Creek, California
- El Dorado House Cemetery
- Ground Zero at World Trade Center, New York City
- Henry Olson Search, Half Moon Bay, California
- LoLo's Grave, Lewis & Clark Trail, Montana
- Loma Prieta Earthquake
- Mexico City Earthquake
- Miwok Cemetery, CA
- Napoleon War 1815, Mass Graves, Czech Republic
- Oakland Firestorm
- Oklahoma City Bombing
- Polly Klaas
- Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster
- Stone Mounds, El Dorado Hills, California
- Washoe Cemetery, Camp Richardson, South Lake Tahoe

## Research

### What is Residual Scent?

*Residual scent* occurs when no physical object is located or present. Scent clings to nearby objects that the canine can smell. *Forensic Evidence definition of residual scent:* the gaseous signature produced by the volatile decomposition binds to the surrounding surfaces.

### Residual Scent Study

How long can residual scent remain? Currently we are conducting research on residual scent in an unused building. We are exploring the question we are often asked, "How long can residual scent last?" Our study has been in progress for over five years.